

# Restore us, O God! We hunger.

LENT 1

## Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

## Focus statement

As humans, we hunger for many things. God, our Provider, knows our deepest longings, offering both sustenance and deliverance from temptation.

## Song suggestions

### THEME SONG:

STJ 29 You Are All We Have

HWB 46 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

HWB 360 Break Thou the Bread of Life

HWB 472 I Am the Bread of Life

HWB 474 I Hunger and I Thirst

HWB 475 Become to Us the Living Bread

STJ 86 Taste and See

STS 36 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

STS 50 Woza Nomthwalo Wakho / Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

“Hungry” by Kathryn Scott

“Your Grace Is Enough” by Chris Tomlin

## Call to worship

Leader: In the midst of myriad distractions, we gather, longing for you.

**All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.**

Leader: In the midst of the temptation to live in fear, we gather, trusting in you.

**All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.**

Leader: In the midst of the challenges of daily living, we gather, craving your presence.

**All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.**

Leader: Come, worship the One who feeds our deepest hungers and sustains us with love.

## Offering prayer

With all that we have and all that we are, we honor you. Restore us, O God, to live in freedom and trust.

## Confession and words of assurance

Leader: God of abundance, you give us *all* we need. We confess that, too often, we focus on what we *don't* have. We forget that it is you who truly sustains us. Forgive us. Satisfy us with your steadfast love, and help us to take refuge in remembering that what you provide is good. It is enough.  
(Pause for silent confession)

Leader: God of abundant grace,

**All: restore us.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad. Sing praises to the Lord! Taste and see that the Lord *is* good.

## Sermon seeds

The wilderness is a place of hunger. The Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness, and after 40 days of fasting, he is hungry. Yet he rejects the temptation of instant gratification. His focus is on the deeper spiritual hunger that can only be nourished by the Word: encountering and trusting the living God. We see Jesus' reaction to this temptation; not only does it teach us about him, but it also becomes instructive for our own lives and daily struggles. It highlights our greatest temptation: our fear of trusting God.

Often, our focus in the Genesis account is on seeing Eve's sinfulness. Our understanding may be enhanced by realizing that her curiosity and desire to be like God is part of human nature. It too is a kind of hungering.

Think about the many distractions and voices that try to persuade us about what will satisfy. We are tempted to think we can provide for our own needs; that we can satisfy our hungers by taking matters into our own hands. What are our deeper hungers? How can these texts help us pay attention to our deepest hungers and longings? Jesus, hungry in the wilderness, points us to God as the ultimate Provider. This is the deep truth that Jesus learns and lives. He invites us to do the same. We can be restored and nourished by God's deep love.

## Lenten ritual

In remembering that God satisfies our deepest hunger, you are invited to prepare and share communion.

## Benediction

Assured that God who loves you will sustain you, go from this place freed to love, freed to trust, freed to serve. Amen.